

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 /079 W
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS:FR
SUBJ: PATRONAT ON CONDITIONS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS

REF: PARIS 07431

1. SUMMARY. PATRONAT PRESIDENT FRANCOIS CEYRAC
SPELLED OUT THE PATRONAT'S VIEWS ON THE APPROACH THAT
A NEW GOF SHOULD ADOPT TO ASSURE SOCIAL PROGRESS. HIS
MESSAGE WAS SIMPLE AND CLEAR: REMOVE THE
RESTRAINTS ON FRENCH BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY PRICE
CONTROLS, WHICH STIFLE INITIATIVE AND INNOVATION AND
REDUCE FRENCH COMPETITIVENESS IN WORLD MARKETS. IF
BUSINESS IS TO BE IN A POSITION TO PAY ITS SHARE OF
THE SOCIAL REFORM BILLS, IT MUST BE UNFETTERED OF
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ESSENCE OF CEYRAC'S MESSAGE TO THE NEW GOF
WAS:
--THE FRENCH, IN REJECTING THE COMMON PROGRAM AND
IN CHOOSING A FREE SOCIETY, HAVE SET THE STAGE
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FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS.
-- HOWEVER, THE FUTURE IS THREATENED BY THE WORLD
ECONOMIC "WAR" AND FRENCH FIRMS MUST BE IN A
POSITION TO MEET THIS THREAT.
--THIS REQUIRES THAT FIRMS BE FREE TO MANAGE
THEIR AFFAIRS. IN PARTICULAR, PRICE CONTROLS
NEED TO BE REMOVED TO PERMIT COMPANIES TO

REESTABLISH PROFIT MARGINS, IMPROVE THEIR
SELF-FINANCING AND COMPETITIVE SITUATIONS, AND
TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF THE COSTS OF SOCIAL
REFORM.

-- IF THIS FREEDOM IS GRANTED, BUSINESS STANDS
READY AND ABLE TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN
THE EFFORTS TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS, PARTI-
CULARLY OF THE POOR, IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS,
AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.

3. COMMENT: CEYRAC DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT THE CNPF
WOULD PROPOSE TO ACCOMPLISH THE SOCIAL REFORM OBJECTIVES;
MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE APPROACH OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT,
PARTICULARLY ITS WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE BUREAUCRATIC
RESTRAINTS ON BUSINESS OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS
INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CEYRAC DID NOT ON THIS
OCCASION CALL FOR GOF MEASURES TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC
GROWTH. END COMMENT.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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